

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01419 311902Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 055052

R 311500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6693

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GBORONE

AMZMBASSY LISBON 060

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1419

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MZ, WZ

SUBJECT: SENIOR SWAZI OFFICIALS QUESTION WISDOM OF
KING SOBHUZA'S POLICY TOWARDS MOZAMBIQUE

REFS: A. NAIROBI 6309 (NOTAL); B. MBABANE 1303 '(NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 30, DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER OF ROYAL SWAZILAND POLICE MSIBI EXPRESSED
GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING CURRENT GOS POLICY OF PROVIDING
ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE TO ANTI-FRELIMO GROUPS SUCH
AS MUNIREMO. MSIBI EXPRESSED OPINION SWAZILAND WAS
"BACKING A DEAD HORSE" AND THAT THIS COULD COST SWAZILAND
DEARLY IF AND WHEN FRELIMO COMES TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE,
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PAGE 02 MBABAN 01419 311902Z

AS NOW APPEARS VERY LIKELY. MSIBI SAID HE BELIEVED

SWAZILAND SHOULD NOT TAKE SIDES AT THIS POINT BUT SHOULD MAINTAIN A "WATCH-AND-WAIT" POSITION. ACCORDING TO MSIBI, FRELIMO REPS ALSO CAME TO MBABANE TWO WEEKS AGO TO MEET WITH DELEGATES OF MUNIREMO, BUT HE UNAWARE OF ANY "AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS. IN HIS VIEW, FRELIMO REPS SIMPLY REPORTED BACK TO THEIR HQ ON ACTIVITIES OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER AN OPPOSITION GROUP.

2. IN RESPONSE EMBOFF'S QUESTION WHY SWAZILAND WAS ENCOURAGING ANTI-FRELIMO GROUPS, MSIBI REPLIED IT STEMMED DIRECTLY FROM KING SOBHUZA'S FEAR OF FRELIMO TAKEOVER BECAUSE OF ITS SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS, AND FROM KING'S "ERRONEOUS" BELIEF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CHANNEL POWER TRANSFER THROUGH CHIEFS AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN MOZAMBIQUE, AS WAS DONE IN SWAZILAND.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH DAVID HOGAN, HEAD OF SPECIAL BRANCH, ROYAL SWAZI POLICE, HOGAN CONFIRMED THAT VARIOUS ANTI-FRELIMO LIBERATION GROUP LEADERS MET IN SWAZILAND JULY 15-17 BUT SAID NUMBER WHO ATTENDED WAS CLOSER TO FIFTEEN (15) THAN 250, AS REPORTED REF A. HOGAN ALSO REMARKED THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSION OF MOZAMBIQUE WITH KING SOBHUZA, THE KING "BLEW UP" AT A REFERENCE TO FRELIMO'S STRENGTH, SAYING FRELIMO HAD NOT RPT NO BACKING IN MOZAMBIQUE.

4. COMMENT: KING SOBHUZA'S BELIEF THAT FRELIMO DOES NOT HAVE WIDE SPREAD SUPPORT IN MOZAMBIQUE IS OBVIOUSLY A DANGEROUS MISCONCEPTION. ALTHOUGH POLICE OFFICIALS PREPARING REPORT DOCUMENTING FRELIMO'S STRENGTH, IT UNLIKELY THIS WILL CHANGE KING'S VIEW. AS KING SOBHUZA PERSONALLY DIRECTING POLICY ON THIS SENSITIVE MATTER, PROSPECT APPEARS TO BE FOR CONTINUED SWAZI SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVES TO FRELIMO, A POLICY WHICH COULD COST SWAZILAND DEARLY IN FUTURE.

HEAD OF SPECIAL BRANCH HOGAN IS COMPETENT AND WELL INFORMED, AND EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT HIS ESTIMATE ON NUMBER OF ANTI-FRELIMO LEADERS WHO MET IN SWAZILAND JULY 15-17. LANE
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PAGE 03 MBABAN 01419 311902Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, POPULAR SUPPORT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBABAN01419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740208-1057
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974073/aaaaacaz.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. NAIROBI 6309 (NOTAL); B. MBABANE, 1303 '(NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENIOR SWAZI OFFICIALS QUESTION WISDOM OF KING SOBHUZA'S POLICY TOWARDS MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MZ, WZ, FRELIMO, MUNIREMO, (SOBHUZA), (MSIBI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005